

Major PROCTOR read a letter from Herr Koren giving a general account of the bird-life met with during his residence in Novaya Zemlya.

Mr. RADCLIFFE SAUNDERS also exhibited (1) a clutch of five eggs of the Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), taken in Hungary on May 23rd, 1903. The eggs were found in a remarkable nest, consisting of wool and similar material, placed on the top of a Carrion-Crow's nest. The structure was eight inches deep, and Herr Cewa, who found it, stated that, from his frequent observations, he believed it to have been constructed by the Falcons. (2) A nest with five eggs of the Meadow-Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) taken near Faversham in May 1903. The eggs were of a light blue colour like those of the Wheatear, and marked with faint yellowish-brown dots.

Dr. P. SUSHKIN sent some descriptions of new subspecies of birds from Palæarctic Asia, together with remarks on their geographical distribution:—

- a. Middle Kirghiz Steppe (north of Caspian and Aral Seas, between 52° and 65° long. E. of Greenwich).

*SYLVIA CURRUCA HALIMODENDRI*, n. subsp.

*S. curruca* similis, ala ut in var. *affini* (67277), sed rostro brevior; supra multo pallidior et magis griseus, pileo occipiteque cinereis, minus brunnescentibus, quam in *S. curruca*. A *S. minuscula* rostro paullo longiore, formula remigum, dorso brunnescenti-griseo nec isabelino, pileoque obscuriore distinguenda.

*Hab.* Arenosa ad fluviorum Irghiz et Turgai cursus inferiores, agri Kirgizorum pars meridionali-orientalis.

*Obs.* This pale and greyish form of *S. curruca* is based on six specimens killed by myself. Its range, so far as is known at present, is rather restricted, as the bird certainly does not penetrate to Turkestan or farther north and west of the locality named; the rest of Kirghiz Steppe being occupied by the common *S. curruca*, L., together with its blunt-winged ally, *S. affinis*, Blyth. Both these Warblers were observed

at the lower Irghiz and lower Turgai on passage only, but do not breed there. The true *S. minuscula*, Hume, does not breed north of the valley of Syr-Darya, and only appears in the Kirghiz Steppe as a very rare straggler.

The Stone-Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*, L.) of the Middle Kirghiz Steppe proved to be a pale Asiatic form, *Petronia petronia brevirostris*, Dyb. This subspecies penetrates to the west as far as the lower course of the Ural. The Stone-Sparrows of Turkestan also belong to this form. Persian specimens are not to be distinguished from European ones.

*b.* Western part of Sayan range (89°–94° long. E. of Greenwich) and the adjacent country.

CINCLUS CINCLUS BIANCHII, n. subsp.

Albiventris, *C. leucogastro* similis, sed capite dorsoque superiore murino-brunneis, minime rufescentibus, inter scapulio, imo, dorso inferiore uropygioque schistaceis, distincte nigro squamulatis. Scapularibus schistaceo tinctis, interdum nigro indistincte squamatis.

*Hab.* Jugum Sayan omne, versus orientem usque ad læcum Baical.

CINCLUS CINCLUS MIDDENDORFFI, n. subsp.

*C. sordido* similis, sed scapularibus, dorso inferiore uropygioque obscure brunneis, nec cinerascentibus et minime squamulatis; tetricibus aë minoribus saturate brunneis, cinereo haud marginatis.

*Hab.* Jugi Sayan pars media.

*Obs.* *C. bianchii* is perhaps the most common Dipper of the Sayan range, but does not penetrate farther north, or westwards to Altai. I procured four specimens on the Sayan range, received nine more from my correspondent, and thirteen specimens from Dr. Lorenz obtained at Lake Baical. *C. middendorffi* seems to be very scarce. I got two specimens from my correspondent; a third specimen was received by Middendorff from his correspondents, and is preserved in the Zoological Museum of the St. Petersburg Academy. It cannot be considered as a hybrid between *C. baicalensis* and one of the dark-breasted Dippers, because none of the latter exist in the locality.

The third form which inhabits the country is *C. baicalensis*, Dresser. In the Sayan range it is almost as common as *C. bianchii*, but is distributed very much more widely, the extreme points of its area being Baical, Krasnoyarsk, Russian Altai, and N.W. Mongolia.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TRISTIS AXILLARIS, n. subsp.

A *Ph. tristis* subalaribus et axillaribus isabellino-albidis straguloque magis grisescenti distinguenda.

*Hab.* Ad cursum medium fluminis Yenisei (55° N. lat.).

REGULUS CRISTATUS COATSI, n. subsp.

*R. cristato* simillimus, sed pilei lateribus et nucha cinereis, vix lutescenti lavatis, nec obscuris, ut in *R. japonico*.

*Hab.* Jugi Sayan zona subalpina.

PÆCILE CINCTA SAYANA, n. subsp.

Ad *P. cinctam* typicam maxime accedit; rostro multo longiore et crassiore; subalaribus et axillaribus concoloribus, ferrugineo-brunnescenti tinctis, rectricibus indistincte cinereo nec flavescenti-griseo limbatis, pileo magis cinerascenti, ut in *P. obtecta*. Ala 73 mm., cauda 69, culmen corneum 11, a glabella 13, rostrum a narina 9.5, gonys 8.

*Hab.* Sayan occidentalis, Altai.

*Obs.* It is rather remarkable that this new form is decidedly more like the western *P. cincta*, Bodd., and not the Siberian *P. cincta obtecta*, Cab. This case is paralleled by the fact that the Spotted Woodpeckers of Sayan Range (*Picus major*, *leuconotus*, *minor*, *Apternus tridactylus*) belong to the typical European forms, whereas at Krasnoyarsk they are replaced by pale Siberian subspecies.

The Remiz Titmouse proved to be very common at the upper course of Yenisei, south of Sayan. I only got specimens in autumn plumage; but though there were adult birds among them, none of those obtained or observed had any trace of the typical black "moustache." Hence this bird should be considered as new, and may be provisionally described as:—

REMIZA YENISEENSIS, n. sp.

*R. veste* autumnali fronte supercilioque albidis, distinctis;

loris albidis, minime nigrescentibus, quo ab omnibus speciebus palæarcticis distinguenda. Ala 52-55 mm., cauda 44-47, culm. 8-9, rostrum a naribus 6·5-7·5.

*Hab.* Mongoliæ septentrionalis pars inter juga Sayan et Tannu-ola posita, ad cursum superiorem fluminis Yenisei.

*Obs.* In working over my Titmice of the *Remiza* group, I found that two other forms from Asia should be considered as distinct. One of them was brought by Przevalski from Central Asia and was mistaken by Pleske for "*Ægithalus* " *stoliczkæ*, Hume; another is from Turkestan, and was named by Severtzoff as *Ægithalus jaxartensis*, but never described. Both birds should be considered as local forms of *Remiza pendulina*.

REMIZA PENDULINA CENTRALASIÆ, n. subsp.

*Ægithalus stoliczkæ*, Hume apud Pleske.

*R. pendulinæ* simillima, sed paullo minor, rostro brevior et graciliore, tectricibus alæ minoribus intense isabellinis, minime castaneo tinctis; tectricibus alæ majoribus limbo apicali fere duplo latiore, quam in *R. pendulina*, zona dorsi castanea angustiore.

*Hab.* Asia centralis.

REMIZA PENDULINA JAXARTENSIS, n. subsp.

*R. pendulinæ* valde simillima, rostro brevior et graciliore, zona dorsi castanea (in avibus ejusdem ætatis!) minus saturata, tectricibus alæ minoribus castaneo tinctis, sic ut in *R. pendulina*, tectricibus alæ majoribus limbo apicali lato, ut in *R. centralasiæ*.

*Hab.* Turkestan.

*Obs.* Some new facts of distribution are also worthy of attention. *Heteropygia acuminata*, Horsf., was met with in summer in the Minusinsk district: three specimens were killed, but none seem to have bred there. The Bustard of Minusinsk Steppe and N. Mongolia (between Sayan and Tannu-ola) proved to be *Otis dybowskii*, Tacz., and is rather plentiful there. No eastern Ducks are of regular occurrence, with the exception of *Ædemia carbo*, Pall., which breeds in Minusinsk district. *Cygnopsis cygnoides*, Pall., is a common summer bird in N. Mongolia, and also breeds in Minusinsk

district. The Lesser Kestrel is represented by *Tinnunculus cenchris* and *T. cenchris pekinensis*. The dark Booted Eagle (*Eutolmaëtus minutus*, Brehm) is fairly common in N. Mongolia, in the poplar trees bordering Yenesei. Of the Buzzards, *Buteo vulpinus*, *B. ferox*, and *Archibuteo strophiatu*s were observed in summer, the two latter in Mongolia only. *Hierofalco altaicus* was seen once; it seems to be a bird of the elevated steppe (5000-6000 feet). *Arundinax aëdon*, Pall., and *Herbivocula schwarzi*, Radde, penetrate westwards to the eastern slopes of the Kusnetz Alatau (western border of Minusinsk district). *Herbivocula fuscata*, Blyth, is still very common in Yenesei. *Phylloscopus humii*, Brooks, is plentiful in Sayan; but no *Ph. superciliosus*, Gm., was ever seen. *Phylloscopus viridanus*, Blyth, belongs to the northern slope of Sayan, and is replaced on the southern slope and in Mongolia by *Ph. plumbeitarsus*, Swinh. *Polyomyias luteola*, Pall., is very common in the eastern part of Minusinsk district, but does not cross the Yenesei. *Larvivora sibilans*, Swinhoe, has the same distribution. *Turdus ruficollis* is plentiful in the subalpine zone of Sayan and on the southern slope. On the northern slope it is replaced by *T. atrigularis*. The House-Martin of the country is the true *Chelidon urbica*, and not, as one would expect, its eastern ally. *Emberiza spodocephala* was traced as far as the Kusnetz Alatau.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS informed the Members of the Club that as he was shortly leaving England for Spain, and would probably be absent for three months, he had handed over the balance of the "Kite Fund" to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, so that the money might be available if required. He had written to Mr. J. H. Salter on the subject.

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The Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union has been arranged to take place at the Trocadero Restaurant, on Wednesday, 11th May, 1904. The price of the Dinner will be 7s. 6d.; and it is hoped that the attendance will be larger than on the previous occasion.

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